MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

22 MARCH 1984

Lebanon

Security Situation — The situation in West Beirut was tense on 22 March in the wake of armed clashes between Al-Murabitun militia and gunmen from the Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) and the Amal Movement, according to Voice of Lebanon radio and the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon. Al-Murabitun was forced to retreat deep into the Sunni areas as their Druze and Shi'ite opponents captured Al-Murabitun's "last stronghold" and the house of its leader, Ibrahim Qulaylat, who is visiting Libya. Al-Murabitun's clandestine Voice of Arab Lebanon radio, which had earlier reported Qulaylat's Libya visit, suspended normal programming on 22 March and was heard broadcasting music. The Voice of Lebanon cited preliminary reports that about 125 people were killed or wounded in the fighting and Radio Free Lebanon said the Amal Movement gained control over most of West Beirut, surrounding the Sabra and Shatila areas to prevent the Palestinians from supporting Al-Murabitun. Voice of Lebanon radio announced that the Amal Movement has ordered Palestinians in the camps to hand over their weapons.

As for the contact lines between East and West Beirut, both the Voice of Lebanon and the PSP's clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio reported further clashes on 21 March.

Political Situation — The official spokesman of the Lebanese Forces Command, in a statement reported by Voice of Lebanon radio, revealed that his side has begun contacts with the PSP and is about to hold contacts with the Amal Movement. "We will always be prepared to undertake such contacts provided the cease-fire remains in effect," he affirmed. The spokesman held Syria responsible for the failure of the Lausanne conference on the grounds that it would no longer have a role to play in Lebanon if reconciliation was achieved. In an interview with Radio Free Lebanon, Lebanese Forces Commander Fadi Afram likewise stressed that he has no objection to negotiating with any Lebanese side provided that these talks are free from any foreign pressure.

Meanwhile, President Amin al-Jumayyil returned to Beirut after holding talks in Paris with French President Francois Mitterrand, Beirut radio reported. Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri, who also met with Mitterrand in Paris, told Radio Monte Carlo that the French president has approved Birri's suggestion to ask the UN Security Council to augment UNIFIL's size and effectiveness. After meeting with the French external relations minister, Birri also disclosed that France has decided soon to withdraw its troops from Beirut, according to AFP.

Israel

If the Knesset decides against dissolution and early elections during the 22 March plenary session, the Cabinet will submit a motion at the beginning of the summer session to hold elections in November, Jerusalem radio reported. Meanwhile, former Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman has announced his intention to establish a new political party, the radio noted.

Iran-Iraq War

Denying the "malicious news" that the ICO mediation committee will leave soon for Tehran at Iran's request, an Iranian Foreign Affairs Ministry spokesman announced that Iran had "merely suggested" that the ICO send experts to investigate Iraqi chemical bombings, Tehran radio reported.

Meanwhile, the Iraqi military communique for 21 March, broadcast by Baghdad Voice of the Masses radio, reported the killing of 105 Iranian troops in the operational sector east of Basra. The Iraqi Air Force also launched 104 combat missions which inflicted "heavy losses" on Iranian personnel and equipment, the communique added. The Iranian military communique carried by Tehran radio reported that Iranian forces had disrupted Iraqi troop movement and supply activities.

Jordan

The Jordanian Government expressed "strong regret" at the U.S. decision to withdraw its request from Congress on supplying Jordan with Stinger missiles, according to an official Jordanian spokesman cited by Amman television. Jordan considers this measure "detrimental" to its security capabilities, the spokesman added.

Egyptian-Jordanian Relations

King Husayn received visiting Egyptian Foreign Ministry First Under Secretary Usamah al-Baz at his palace on 21 March, Amman radio reported. The Egyptian official conveyed a message to the king from President Husni Mubarak, which dealt with coordination on efforts to settle the Palestinian issue, the Iran-Iraq war, and the recent attack against Sudan, MENA noted.

Syria

Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi left Damascus for Riyadh on 21 March after talks with high-ranking Syrian officials, SANA announced. His talks with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad dealt with important Arab issues and the means to reach "radical and fruitful" solutions, Damascus radio added.

Libya

After earlier denying knowledge of a U.S. memorandum on the Sudan air raid incident, the Foreign Liaison Bureau has now "categorically refused" to accept this memorandum as conveyed to it by the Belgian ambassador, JANA reported. Libya regards the memorandum as a U.S. threat to "declare war" against it on behalf of Egypt and Sudan. "Artificial borders between Arab countries" are the result of colonialism and do not provide a "pretext for interference" in the region or in Arab affairs, JANA added.

FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

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AFP: Over 100 Killed in Police 'Rampage'
BK220736 Hong Kong AFP in English 0702 GMT 22 Mar 84

[By Joel Henri]

[Text] New Delhi, March 22 (AFP) — Police in the port of Paradip killed more than 100 people and set some 3,000 huts ablaze Monday in a rampage sparked by the death of four colleagues during India's dock strike, opposition politicians said today.

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES, which sent a correspondent to the scene, said more than 300 people were killed, their bodies thrown in the sea or the flames of their blazing houses in the east coast city, one of 10 ports paralyzed by the week-long strike. "Charred bodies, half-burnt cattle carcasses, twisted utensils and kerosene tins, grinding mortars and other household bric-a-brac and a miles-long stretch of ash and burnt soil are among the reminders of Monday's carnage," *THE TIMES* said. It said that 90 shops were torched and overall damage estimates ran to some 40 million rupees (four million dollars).

The PRESS TRUST OF INDIA quoted Nandini Satphaty, head of a delegation of communist and conservative members of parliament who toured Paradip, as saying that many bodies were loaded onto trucks and taken outside the city. One woman described how her husband was shot by police and then thrown alive into the flaming ruins of their house, Mrs. Satphaty said here after her tour of the now-empty streets of Paradip with her 13-member delegation.

There was no official confirmation of the reports. Paradip authorities had said that clashes Monday involving independent and unionized dock workers and police had left eight people dead, including four policemen. Mrs. Satphaty, a former chief minister of the state of Orissa, where the troubled port city is situated, said two more people were killed yesterday, one shot dead and the other beaten to death by police. PTI quoted Orissa Governor B.N. Pande as saying that he shared the opposition's concern. He said he would talk to the chief minister and suggest a judicial inquiry into the incident and the general problems of Paradip.

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES compared the scene in Paradip to the communal massacres a year ago in the northeast state of Assam, where as many as 3,500 people died in an orgy of bloodshed sparked by a drive against immigrants. It said that a thick column of smoke curled from what was a prosperous motor workshop and "a putrid stench of burnt flesh and stale fish pervaded the entire area." The newspaper quoted a storeowner as saying that, "several policemen came to my shop and beat me up. They pushed me into the deep dirty backyard and set fire to the shop. "I have lost 40,000 rupees (4,000 dollars), but I am more worried about my wife and my two children. I have not seen them since that moment of nightmare. I do not know if they are alive," the shopkeeper was quoted as saying.

Correspondents said that the MP's were not allowed to meet the 32 people officially taken into custody by police for questioning. They said that the number of those detained could be higher.

Meanwhile, some 300,000 dock workers belonging to four unions today went into the seventh day of their strike, which has been followed 100 percent. Some 150 cargo ships have been blocked in port or awaiting entry. The Indian Navy, placed on a state of alert to maintain access to port facilities, began Tuesday to unload several ships carrying oil, coal and perishable goods. The dockers have not protested.

Newspapers here said that negotiations between the strikes and the government could resume today. They were suspended last Thursday after more than a month of fruitless bargaining over salary hikes.

The strike is costing India several million dollars a day, the maritime transport minister said. The daily *ECONOMIC TIMES* put the daily losses at about a billion rupees (100 million dollars). About 600 million rupees (60 million dollars) worth of traffic per day had been held up since the beginning of the strike, the paper added, quoting S.R. Kulkarni, president of the All-India Port and Dock Workers' Federation. *THE TIMES* also quoted Mr. Kulkarni's deputy, Manohar Kotwal, as saying there was a possibility of transport workers in Bombay might adopt a non-cooperation attitude towards port operations if the strike continued.

Port Situation 'Unchanged' in Strike's 6th Day
BK211648 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 21 Mar 84

[Text] The situation at the major ports remained unchanged on the 6th day of the port and dock workers strike today. At the Calcutta ports 19 ships are waiting at sandheads for entry. Forty-one ships are lying stranded in Calcutta and Haldia ports.

The chairman of the Port Trust told our correspondent that the striking workers, however, allowed the loading of 200 barrels petroleum products on the ship from Port Blair. A spokesman of the Madras Port Trust told newsmen that naval personnel continued today the pumping out of crude oil from an oil tanker. The tanker was brought into the port with the help of the Navy yesterday. Fifteen ships are waiting for entry into the port.

According to authorities at Cochin port, cargo worth 135 million rupees has piled up because of the strike. Two more ships arrived at the outer harbor today. An official spokesman said the striking workers have not allowed berthing of the ship *Bharat Seema* to enable passengers to embark at Cochin although passenger vessels are exempted from the purview of the strike.

AFP Cites Reports on Tamil Militant Training
BK211108 Hong Kong AFP in English 1003 GMT 21 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Colombo, March 21 (AFP) — An Indian press report that New Delhi was turning a blind eye to the military training of Tamil separatists on its territory has cast a new chill over Indo-Sri Lankan relations, observers here said today.

An article in the weekly *INDIA TODAY*, which was reprinted here today by the *ISLAND* newspaper, quoted Sri Lankan Tamil sources in southern India as saying the training was being carried out by Indian ex-servicemen and cadres from the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO). The article also alleged that New Delhi had issued an Indian passport to a wanted Tamil separatist leader.

Informed sources said the matter was expected to be raised during a Cabinet meeting here later today and would undoubtedly surface in tomorrow's meeting of parliament.

Minority Tamils in Sri Lanka, who have been campaigning against what they say is officially sanctioned discrimination by the island's majority Sinhalese, have demanded the formation of an independent state in the north and east.

The Indian Government has consistently denied that Tamil separatists had set up military training bases with the help of southern Indian politicians in Tamil Nadu state, located just across the narrow Palk Strait form Sri Lanka.

But *INDIA TODAY*, quoting Sri Lankan Tamils living in southern India, described the militants' activities and international links, including ties with the PLO, the Zimbabwe African People's Union (ZAPU), Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU) and the African National Congress (ANC).

"Besides the leftist organisations, which had traditionally been backed by the Soviet Union and Cuba, the Tamil rebels have also had some contact with the Irish Republican Army (IRA)," the magazine said.

High Commissioner: No Tamil Camps Anywhere in India

BK220318 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] India has described as baseless a report in a Colombo newspaper that training camps for Sri Lankan Tamil extremists are organized in Tamil Nadu. The Indian high commissioner in Colombo, Mr S.J.S. Chatwal, made it clear that the report has no basis whatsoever. There are no such camps anywhere in India, he added.

Rao Denies Involvement in 'Any Coup' in Pakistan

BK211406 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 21 Mar 84

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao, has said that Pakistan's acquisition of sophisticated weapons has forced India to follow, and be prepared to meet, any eventuality. He was replying to the 8-hour discussion in the lower house of parliament today on the budget demands of his ministry, which the house later passed. Mr Rao said at every stage Pakistan has been raising the level of sophistication, ignoring all the appeals made by India against such action. India wants all the countries in the region to live peacefully and in good-neighborly relations.

The external affairs minister categorically rejected all allegations and insinuations of India's involvement in any coup in Pakistan. He described such reports as absolutely baseless and highly mischievous. India, he said, has not interfered and will not interfere in the internal affairs of Pakistan or any other country. He also discussed as total concoction the Pakistani allegation that the two domestic servants of Indian diplomat in that country, who have returned to India, were spies. He said it is the most unbelievable story.

Referring to Bangladesh, the external affairs minister spoke of the efforts being made by India to find a solution to the issue of sharing the Ganges waters.

On Sri Lanka, the external affairs minister hoped that the (?interregnum) will be used for informal consultations to find an acceptable solution.

Mr Rao described the relations with Bhutan as excellent.

About Nepal, he said both the countries have come to an understanding on the Karnali hydroelectric project a few days ago. India has no problems with Burma, except the issue relating to maritime boundary which is being solved.

Turning to the situation in West Asia, Mr Rao has welcomed the reconciliation efforts which have started in Lebanon.

Referring to the follow-up action by the Nonaligned Movement under the leadership of Mrs Gandhi, Mr Rao asserted that the New York meeting of heads of government held in September last was useful.

Sethi: No Arrest Warrant Issued Against Akali Chief

BK211620 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 21 Mar 84

[Text] Parliament has approved continuation of president's rule in Punjab for another 6 months. The Rajya Sabha gave its approval today by adopting a statutory resolution on the subject moved by the home minister, Mr P.C. Sethi. The Lok Sabha approved it on Monday.

Replying to the debate in the Rajya Sabha, Mr Sethi said the extension of president's rule is necessary to get normalcy restored in the state. He said the government was keen to end president's rule, but the time is not ripe. Mr Sethi refuted the opposition charge of a policy of drift on Punjab. He renewed his invitation to the Akali Dal leadership to return to the negotiating table.

Referring to a suggestion that the prime minister should visit the Golden Temple and talk to the Akali leaders, Mr Sethi asked whether it would be desirable for the head of a government to go there for negotiations instead of their coming to New Delhi.

The home minister also renewed his appeal to the Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak [Sikh Temple Management] Committee to surrender the criminals hiding in the Golden Temple complex. He justified the ban on the All-India Sikh Students Federation

[AISSF], saying the organization is involved in unlawful activities. The home minister denied as totally baseless a report that arrest warrant has been issued against the Akali Dal chief, Sant Harchand Singh Longowal. He clarified that only a first information report has been filed at Amritsar.

Earlier, during the discussion, the opposition members urged the government to find an immediate political solution to the Punjab problem. Mr Harkrishan Singh Surajeet, CPI-M, who initiated the discussion said the extremists in the state ought to be isolated. A Janata member felt that the continuance of the president's rule in Punjab is uncalled for as the people in the state would be deprived of governing themselves. Two nominated members welcomed the center's decision to ban the AISSF. A Bharatiya Janata Party was of the opinion that the issue must not be politicized any further. Ruling parties called for saner counsels on all sides.

Home Minister Discusses Punjab, Assam Issues
BK220410 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] The home minister, Mr P.C. Sethi, has said that the activites of certain communal extremists and sectarian forces in the country are posing a serious threat to national integration, besides creating a law and order problem. Mr Sethi was inaugurating the 3-day annual conference of the directors general and the inspectors general of police of the state and central police organizations in New Delhi.

Referring to the situation in Punjab, Mr Sethi said that the growing of specter of extremism there is causing perceived threat to (? purity) of beliefs and practices and political aspirations.

In Assam, he said, while the intensity of the antiforeigners agitation has considerably reduced, it still retains the character of a movement.

Punjab Governor: Situation Generally Improving
BK220436 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] The Punjab governor, Mr B.D. Pandey, has said that the law and order situation in the state is generally improving. Talkingto newsmen in Ludhiana, he said no untoward incident has been reported in Punjab during the past 2 days. Inaugurating a 2-day kisan mela [farmers fair] at the Punjab agricultural university, Mr Pandey said the state government is doing its utmost for the welfare of the farmers.

Later, the governor arrived in New Delhi and called on the prime minister and the home minister. An official spokesman said that Mr Pandey apprised the home minister about the law and order situation in the state.

AFP Roundup of Activities in Punjab, Haryana
BK211436 Hong Kong AFP in English 1322 GMT 21 Mar 84

[By P.P. Ramachandran]

[Text] New Delhi, March 21 (AFP) — The governor of Punjab today left the turbulent northwestern state for urgent consultations with federal government leaders, PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) reported.

A dispatch from the Punjab town of Ludhiana said that Governor Bhairab Dutt Pande cut short a two-day visit there to fly to the federal capital to discuss the situation in his state with the government. PTI did not specify what prompted the move, but it followed important steps by the federal government in the past two days agaisnt militant Sikhs.

Police in Amritsar yesterday laid sedition charges against Sant Harchand Singh Longowal, chairman of the Sikh party, Akali Dal, which is spearheading the Punjab movement for greater political autonomy and religious concessions.

On Monday, the federal government here outlawed the Sikh Students Federation, known to be closely associated with the Sikh militant leader, Sant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale.

Newspaper reports this morning said about 100 federation activists had been rounded up already in the state in raids on their hide-outs or houses.

Akali leaders immediately reacted to the government actions. In Ludhiana, Basant Singh Khalsa, a state legislator of Punjab, and Surjan Singh Thekedar, jointly met the governor before his departure and asked for the immediate withdrawal of the measures. They described them as "shocking and condemnable," PTI said.

Meanwhile, in Punjab's neighbouring state, Hindu-dominated Haryana, a government spokesman said their police had cracked a conspiracy by suspected extremist Sikhs to kill state V.I.P.'s. He did not identify the potential victims, PTI said.

The spokesman told reporters in Chandigarh, joint capital of the two states, that police had nabbed at least 10 suspects in connection with the plot. About 15 people were involved, including extremists from Punjab and some locals in Haryana.

He suggested that the attempt on the life of Haryana legislative assembly speaker Ved Pal earlier this month was part of this conspiracy, saying that one of those arrested was suspected to have been involved in the incident. Mr. Ved Pal escaped unhurt when unknown gunmen fired at his car, but the driver was killed.

In New Delhi, Interior Minister Prakash Chand Sethi referred to the growing communal violence and other extremist trends and asked security forces to be "vigilant" and take "pre-emptive action" against them.

He mentioned both the situation in Punjab and in Assam, where natives have been campaigning against illegal settlers from neighbouring Bangladesh and Nepal for the past five years. Mr.

Sethi was addressing the annual conference of police chiefs from various states.

Prime Minister Comments on Nuclear Energy Use

Pakistani Effort

BK220416 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] The prime minister told the Lok Sabha that the government is aware of Pakistan's effort to acquire a uranium enrichment capability to produce nuclear material needed to construct a nuclear weapon. In a written reply, Mr Gandhi reiterated India's policy to use atomic energy for peaceful purposes and to remain abreast with all significant technologies to this end. She said the development of nuclear energy in the country has been rapid. India is one of the few countries and the only developing country with an entirely indigenous fuel cycle. It has also the proven capability of designing, building, and operating all sophisticated facilities required for generating power from atomic energy.

Research in Uranium Enrichment

BK220916 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] The prime minister has said Pakistan's efforts to acquire uranium enrichment capability to assemble a nuclear weapon does not mean that it is ahead of India in atomic energy development. In a written answer in Rajya Sabha today, Mrs Gandhi said Indian scientists are keeping abreast of all aspects of research and development connected with enrichment technology.

The house was told that it is not considered economical to set up a separate plant at the Rajasthan atomic power project for reprocessing spent fuel from the plant. The minister of state for atomic energy, Mr Shivraj Patil, said the spent fuel from the Rajasthan atomic power project is taken to Tarapur for reprocessing.

In reply to a separate question, the minister said the country's nuclear power has not suffered any setback due to shortage of enriched uranium and heavy water.

Janata Leaders See No Sign of War From Pakistan

BK211705 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 21 Mar 84

[Text] The Janata Party leaders, Mr Biju Patnaik and Mr George Fernandes, who have just returned after a visit to Pakistan, today expressed the view that there are no signs of warlike intentions in India or Pakistan against each other. Addressing a press conference in New Delhi, they said that they met President Zia and the cross-section of the Pakistani people in Rawalpindi and Lahore and they could see no sign that a war with India is in the offing.

Parliament Informed of Spy Ring in Kutch District

BK211429 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 21 Mar 84

[Text] The lower house was informed today that a few video films containing photographs of some military installations, airbases, and river bridges in the Kutch District of Gujarat in western India have been confiscated from some persons on the Kutch border. The home minister, Mr P.C. Sethi, said that investigations are in progress on the recovery of the incriminating photographs.

On a question about a spy ring operating smugglers in the Kutch District, the house was told that three cases have been registered and eleven persons detained. According to the information received from the Gujarat Government, one Pakistani national was apprehended with smuggled heroin on the Kutch border.

Finnish Foreign Minister Begins Visit

BK190914 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 19 Mar 84

[Text] The foreign minister of Finland, Mr Paavo Vayrynen, arrived in New Delhi today on a 4-day official visit to the country. He was received at the airport by the external affairs minister, Mr Narasimha Rao, and senior officials of the ministry.

Talking to newsmen, Mr Vayruynen said that during his stay in the capital he will discuss with the Indian leaders measures to step up bilateral trade. Asked about the deployment of missiles in Europe, he said it is a great pity that the Geneva talks have failed and new deployment has started. He urged the superpowers to resume the talks and return to the negotiating table in the interest of mankind.

Welcoming the Finnish minister, Mr Narasimha Rao expressed the hope that his visit will provide an opportunity to explore the possibilities of enlarging the areas of bilateral cooperation. This is the first ever visit by any foreign minister of Finland to India.

Rao, Vayrynen Dinner Remarks

BK200419 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] India and Finland have reaffirmed their commitment to work for international peace and security and for closer bilateral ties. Speaking at a dinner in New Delhi last night hosted in honor of the visiting foreign minister of Finland, Mr Paavo Vayrynen, the external affairs minister, Mr Narasimha Rao, underlined the need to build a better climate of international understanding. Mr Rao expressed admiration for the unceasing efforts of Finland in the cause of detente, disarmament, and peace.

Replying to the toast, Mr Vayrynen said that his country believes that it can best meet its security needs by taking into account the natural security needs of all neighbors and by developing relations with them. He said Finland wants to remain outside the disputes and conflicts of great powers.

Meetings With Gandhi, Others

LD202037 Helsinki Domestic Service in Finnish 1700 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] Foreign Minister Paavo Vayrynen today met Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi during his visit to India. The international situation and relations between our countries were central topics in the meeting, which lasted about half an hour.

In other ministerial talks today, an impetus was given to Finnish-Indian trade.

Vayrynen also met Indian President Giani Zail Singh, as well as the country's vice president.

Foreign Minister Vayrynen described the official talks he conducted in Delhi as useful.

Vayrynen and Gandhi met this afternoon in the Indian parliamentary building in Delhi. Before that, he held talks with the Indian industry and finance ministers. Development of economic relations between our countries dominated today's talks. However, the talks have not yet become detailed.

NEPAL

PRC President Speaks at Public Reception

BK211509 Hong Kong AFP in English 1442 GMT 21 Mar 84

[Text] Katmandu, March 21 (AFP) — Visiting Chinese President Li Xiannian said here today that Beijing was ready to join in all global efforts to ease international tensions and end the arms race. Speaking at a crowded public reception organized by the city government here, Mr. Li also reiterated his country's support for a proposal by Nepal's King Birendra to declare the Himalayan nation a zone of peace. "We fully understand the Nepalese people's love for peace and sincere desire to build up their country," he said.

Mr. Li, the first Chinese president to visit Nepal, added that the cornerstone of China's foreign policy was to strengthen cooperation with Third World nations in an effort to safeguard their national independence and promote "South-South" relations.

While paying tribute to Nepal's independent foreign policy and nonalignment Mr. Li said, "The Nepalese Government plays a positive role in international affairs and has won widespread support and appreciation."

Katmandu mayor Kamal Chitrakar then presented the Chinese head of state with a 60 centimeter (two-foot) tall bronze statue of Bhrikuti, a princess who had married a Tibetan king in the sixth century.

Earlier in the day Prime Minister Lokendra Bahadur Chand and Nepalese Foreign Minister Padma Bahadur Khatri paid a courtesy call on Mr. Li at the royal palace.

Meanwhile, the first round of ministerial-level talks between China and Nepal was held today on such topics as possible Chinese economic assistance for the development of roads, hydro power and irrigation in Nepal, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said. Joint industrial ventures and the development of tourism between Katmandu and Lhasa were also discussed at [words indistinct] minute meeting, he said. The Chinese delegation was headed by Vice Premier Tian Jiyun, while Mr. Khatri led the Nepalese side.

SRI LANKA

Terrorists' Training in Southern India Discussed

Cabinet Meeting

BK221233 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] Foreign Minister Shahul Hameed is to ask the Indian Government about reports that northern terrorists are being trained in camps in southern India. Minister of State Dr Anandatissa de Alwis told reporters after the weekly Cabinet meeting yesterday that they had been trying to tell the world about this and it had not listened.

Now the truth has been revealed by Indian journalism. Dr de Alwis confirmed that an article in *INDIA TODAY* had been discussed at the Cabinet meeting. The article, which was reproduced from the Indian magazine, appeared at a local daily newspaper yesterday. The state minister has decided to send copies of the magzine to all Sri Lankan missions abroad and other concerned institutions. He said that the foreign minister had discussed this matter with the Indian authorities. However, they had not been convinced of such organized training on Indian soil. Dr de Alwis added that the magazine article revealed that a large number of terrorists are being trained in India to conquer our island and said this was what the Sri Lanka Government had been trying to say for a long time.

Parliament Session

BK221329 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1245 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] Prime Minister Premadasa said in parliament today that the government would never allow India to bully Sri Lanka. The government would stand up to any challenge. Sri Lanka, he said, had tolerated enough. The prime minister said this amidst cheers from both sides of the house.

Mr Premadasa said that what was mentioned in the article published in *INDIA TODAY* that the training given to northern terrorists was true and the article had justified what he said in the house earlier. The prime minister also said that he stood by all that he said in parliament in this connection earlier. There were training camps being held in several parts of India and the northern terrorists were given training there.

Earlier, the minister of parliamentary affairs and sports, Vincent Perera, who tabled in parliament on behalf of the prime minister the reasons for the extension of the state of emergency, said that the activities of the terrorists in the north and east had not shown any indication of subsiding. He said that the activities were going on unaffected and murders, gang robberies, highway robberies, and violence were continuing. Apart from these incidents in the north and east, subversive elements were also found to be active in south.

The MP for Gampaha, S.P. Bandaranaike, said that according to the article published in the local daily newspaper, south India was preparing to invade Sri Lanka and the terrorists were being trained there. He said that the most [words indistinct] all youths over 18 years in Sri Lanka should be given a military training. The member also said that the Sinhalese were not against giving the Tamils their due right, but in the cover of fighting for right, no one should be given the chance to invade the country. He appealed to all political parties to get together and meet the challenge.

The memebr of Attaragalla, Lakshman Jayakodi, said that even though the prime minister had stated that what was stated in the *INDIA TODAY* article was true, the Indian high commissioner in Sri Lanka had said that there was no truth whatsover in the article. The prime minister interrupted Mr Jayakodi and asked him: Are you believing the Indian high commissioner or me?

The prime minister said that Mrs Indira Gandhi or the Indian Government might not be interested in invading Sri Lanka, but they should take note of the fact that certain elements were interested in invading Sri Lanka.

SUN: Indian Help Sought on Terrorist Activity

BK211541 Colombo THE SUN in English 12 Mar 84 p 1

[Text] Sri Lanka will raise with the Indian Government reports in a Tamil Nadu newspaper about the discovery by Madras police of Rs. 6.2 million worth of gold and jewellery said to be stolen from banks here.

SUN reliably learns that Foreign Minister Shahul Hameed will today ask the Sri Lanka High Commissioner in New Delhi, Bernard Tillekeratne to take this matter up with the Indian Foreign Ministry.

The idea is to seek Indian assistance to further investigate evidence the police and security forces have uncovered of activities in the South Indian state of Tamil Nadu by northern terrorists. Besides finding safe houses in South India, they are also said to be taking across the loot from robberies they stage here to their South Indian hideouts.

This is the first time evidence has publicly surfaced about terrorist loot being discovered on Indian soil. Hence the government feels the Indian government will extend its co-operation particularly since it has done so by extending its good offices to bring about a settlement to the Tamil problem.

The ongoing all party conference is the direct result of talks Indian Premier Indira Gandhi's special envoy, Gopalaswamy Parthasarathy, had with government leaders.

WEEKEND yesterday exclusively reported that gold and jewellery valued at 6.25 million rupees, believed to be part of the loot from bank robberies in Sri Lanka have been intercepted by Indian authorities.

Reporting this, a South Indian Tamil daily *THINAMALAR* said that four persons believed to be members of the proscribed Tigers group have been apprehended, produced before a submagistrate and released on conditional bail.

Reports reaching Colombo from Madras yesterday said that the submagistrate who released the youths on conditional bail had directed that they report to the Deputy Inspector General of Police periodically. Intervening to secure their release from courts had been a Sri Lankan lawyer who has now virtually taken up residence in Madras.

These records also said that the gold and jewellery weighing 11 kilos had been concealed in a gunny bag. The youths had been arrested after the police checked the vehicle in which they were travelling at a point called Vadapalani. They had been produced before the Poonamalai Submagistrate.

All-Party Conference Set To Reconvene 9 May

BK211204 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 21 Mar 84

[Text] President Jayewardene who presided over the plenary session of the all-party conference yesterday suggested that the conference meet again on the 9th of May so as to (?allow) the government to prepare draft legislation where necessary on matters on which consensus had been reached. It will also enable the delegations to work for the consultations on matters on which consensus had not been reached.

Conference spokesman, Minister Lalith Athulathmudali, told a news briefing after the session at the Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall in Colombo yesterday that the report of the joint committee of the conference was accepted by the plenary. The minister said that the areas on which consensus was reached included matters pertaining to the granting of citizenship rights to the stateless people of Indian origin in Sri Lanka, the setting up of an institution below the district development council at the grass-root level, and the eradication of all forms of terrorism in all parts of the country. The minister said that some delegations wanted it to be placed on record that they did not agree to a long adjournment. This included the Tamil United Liberation Front. The conference however agreed to reconvening the plenary session on the 9th of May.

SLFP Leader Charges Government Abusing Power

BK211719 Colombo THE SUN in English 13 Mar 84 p 3

[Text] SLFP leader Sirimavo Bandaranaike addressing a public rally at Matugama presided over by Matugama MP Anil Moonesinghe charged that the present government is abusing its power and taking revenge on its political opponents.

She said, that the country had fallen into a deplorable economic and social situation and it would be a difficult task to pull the country out from that state. The SLFP, she said, had launched a campaign to agitate for a general election.

Paying a tribute to the *SUN* group of papers, she said that the newspaper group deserved the respect of the people for its impartiality.

Ms. Bandaranaike reminded the people about the promises placed by President J.R. Jayewardene and members of his party and said that the people reposed confidence in the UNP leader as he is an experienced politician who served in a number of governments. But even after six years the government has failed to honour its promises or to solve the country's problems, she added.

"Today the economy is ruined, administration is in a mess,there is no law and order in the country, the ministers and other members of the party have become unruly, the country is severely in debt and mortgaged to international institutions," Ms. Bandaranaike pointed out.

"The cost of living has gone up, the price of kerosene oil will be increased again," she said. "All this is done to satisfy the World Bank."

Foreign factories are opened in the country, and local industries disappear. Although hospitals do not have medicine, large stocks of drugs are allowed to rot and are then destroyed," she said charging that waste was rampant in government institutions.

Ms. Bandaranaike pointed out that President J.R. Jayewardene had failed to check terrorism in the north while she succeeded in suppressing the insurgency of 1971 within two weeks. While there was terrorism in the north, there was state terrorism in the south. A certain person who had started terrorism in the Attanagalla electorate had indulged in violence recently. The police were unable to act independently, she said.

Ms. Bandaranaike said she was sorry that a breakaway group was attacking the SLFP, when there was a need for a united struggle to defeat the government. "But it is for a short time. This group will suffer the same fate as befell JVP [Janatha Vimukti Peramuna] she warned.

The leader of the opposition, Anura Bandaranaike, addressing the rally said that all sections of the people live in fear under the government. People were not free to express their views. Even the members of parliament lived in fear under the present system of government he added.

Mr. Bandaranaike further said Ms. Bandaranaike was sure to get her civic rights before 1987 which is the due time. The SLFP would set up a government under her leadership, he said.

Spokesman Says No Invitation Extended to ICO

LD 1718 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 21 Mar 84

[Text] Riyadh Radio, broadcasting in Arabic at 0730,today announced that the Islamic Conference Organization mediation committee soon will leave for Tehran at Iran's request.

A spokesman for the Foreign Affairs Ministry, refuting this malicious news, has announced: The Islamic Republic of Iran merely had suggested to the Islamic conference that it send a mission of experts to Iran to investigate and give its views on the Saddam regime's chemical bombings. Unfortunately, this suggestion has been distorted by the supporters of Saddam and the corrupt Iraqi Ba'thist regime and has been made to appear as an official invitation extended to the mediation committee.

Armed Forces Joint Staff Communique No 1,672

LD211743 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 21 Mar 84

[Communique No 1,672 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] Islam's powerful and resisting forces yesterday continued their defensive battle against the Iraqi Ba'thist aggressive mercenaries on all the fronts of the imposed war. On each of the fronts, while fully safeguarding and watching over their defensive positions, they retaliated against enemy artillery and heavy weapons fire and dispatched patrol groups. Thanks to the reports received from forward observers, they opened fire on the enemy's mobile columns, supply points, and tank and artillery positions, thereby disrupting the movements and displacement and supply activities of the Saddamist mercenaries and imposing losses and casualties — killing or wounding a number of their forces.

At 1435 on 20 March, an enemy unit of company strength embarked on offensive operations and harrassing attacks in the area of the 'Anbar River on the Musian front, but Islam's victorious combatants by opening extensive retaliatory fire curbed the offensive operations of the Saddamist mercenaries and inflicted appreciable losses and casualities on the Iraqi forces,forcing them to retreat.

On the Arvand Rud fronts, the heroes of the Navy and the fighters of the Gendarmerie, like other Islamic combatants, heroically defended their positions against the Saddamist mercenaries and by using their heavy weapons fire silenced the enemy's fire and destroyed a number of group bunkers and foxholes of the Iraqi Ba'thist mercenaries together with the servicemen inside.

The city of Abadan also came under fire of the Iraqi forces yesterday; part of a school, a number of vehicles belonging to the city's hospital, and 13 houses and shops were damaged.

Loss, Injury of Ulema, Commanders Regretted

LD162323 Tehran IRNA in English 1735 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Text] Tehran, March 16, IRNA — The War Information Headquarters [WIH] today issued a statement on the martyrdom, wounding, and captivity of numerous member of the ulema in the battlefronts as well as a number of military commanders.

The statement expressed congratulations and condolences for the martyrdom of 35 members of the ulema during the Khaybar operation that began last month as well as a number of commanders of the Islamic forces, namely Hajj Ibrahim Hemmat, the commander of the Mohammad Rasul-Allah (Mohammad Prophet of God, SAW) division of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps. [sentence as received]

It also said that 70 members of the ulema had been wounded during the operation and seven had been taken captive.

The WIH statement said the ulema had carried out their great responsibility in the struggle against the shah and today they were present in the battlefronts of the Iraqi imposed war along with the Islamic combatants.

Musavi Attends Funeral Ceremonies in Esfahan

LD221259 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi this morning arrived in Esfahan to take part in ceremonies honoring martyrs and officials from Najafabad and Khomeynishahr. He was welcomed at the airport by the governor general and commanders of security and military forces of the province.

The prime minister then left for Najafabad in the company of the governor general of Esfahan; he attended funeral ceremonies for the martyrs of the victorious Khaybar operations and memorial services for officials. The ceremonies were attended by thousands of martyr-nurturing, revolutionary people of various strata from Najafabad; Ayatollah Taheri, the imam's representative who is also the Friday imam of Esfahan; the representatives of the Grand Ayatollah Montazeri; Ayatollah Izadi, the Friday imam of Najafabad; several deputies from the Majlis; and a number of officials from Esfahan Province.

Mr Musavi said during the course of his speech, referring to the sacred aims of the Islamic Revolution, that this revolution is progressing on a world basis and the destiny of our revolution is connected with the destiny of all the Muslims of the world.

Praising the martyrs of the way of truth, the prime minister continued: Our martyrs did not shed their blood for the sake of land; they belong to all mankind and they are in the forefront of world movements against arrogance.

Praising the sacrifices made by the martyr-nurturing people of Najafabad and other strata of the Muslim nation of our homeland, Mr Musavi said: All the forces of arrogance have mobilized against this revolution and this nation has risen against all of them. You can see how all the enemies' plots have been thwarted; the unholy alliance of East and West to confront this revolution had no success at all, since we have broken the hands of the powers, so that we might have no lord but God, and we are ready to make sacrifices in the defense of Islam's sublime goals up to the limits of our own existence. This is a lesson which our great martyrs have taught us.

The prime minister concluded: We have drawn under the shade of Islam the pleasure of living in freedom and enjoying independence; through the selflessness of the heroic people, this glorious revolution stands on its own feet and possesses the nation's morale as its stock-in-trade.

According to the report, at the conclusion of the ceremonies, the remains of the martyrs were conveyed in the presence of various strata of the people to the Najafabad martyrs cemetery and surrounding villages, where internment took place.

Commentary Examines 'New' U.S. Mideast Policy

GF172016 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 17 Mar 84

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Political circles are talking about a new U.S. policy in the Middle East in the wake of the defeat of U.S. policy in Lebanon. It is clear that the interest of U.S. policy has moved from Lebanon to the Persian Gulf, bringing with it developments in the region, particularly with regard to the war between the Islamic Republic and the Baghdad regime.

On the military level, the U.S. Government reinforced its three bases — in Jufayr in Bahrain, in Dhahran in Saudi Arabia, and in Al-Masirah in Oman — transported to these bases equipment and sophisticated weapons, and strengthened its presence at these bases by sending U.S. military experts to supervise the progress of work there. Moreover, the U.S. Pentagon dispatched more than 40 vessels, comprising destroyers and aircraft carriers, which took up positions near the vital waterway of the Strait of Hormuz.

The United States was not content with all this military buildup in the face of possible developments but sought to press the trigger of war and aggression represented by the Ba'thist rulers of Iraq, extending to them all necessary support regardless of the cost.

The Baghdad conference, attended by the foreign ministers of some reactionary Arab regimes, was convened at Washington's recommendation and with French support and at the direction of the Saudi regime which was the moving force at the conference. Washington had hoped that the conference would agree on making up for Iranian oil exports with the oil of Saudi Arabia and some Gulf countries in order to repeat the farce of the economical blockade of the Islamic Republic. The conference also provided a dense cover to hide the scandal of the Iraqi rulers' use of chemical weapons — an action that exposed not only the aggressive nature of the Iraqi rulers but those who supplied that criminal regime with such lethal weapons.

Moreover, the conference encouraged the Iraqi rulers to perpetrate other crimes by resorting to the use of other lethal weapons it possesses to escalate the state of war. This eventually will lead to the closure of the Strait of Hormuz and the intervention of the great powers in the war on the side of the aggressors.

It appears that there is a specific timing whereby the imperialist powers will participate in the war on Saddam's side: At the time when the imperialist powers find that Saddam is incapable of resisting the valiant Islamic forces. It appears that the timing is subject to a preplanned scenario: When Saddam finds himself cornered, he will launch the weapons of death and destruction remaining in his possession and escalate the war to a level that will allow the superpowers to enter the arena of war to save his regime from inevitable collapse.

Saddam and his masters believed that such a scenario would remain secret and that when implemented it would be a surprise to the world. It did not occur to Saddam that the leaders of the Islamic Revolution in Iran have prepared for every eventuality and they are capable, with God's help, of foiling all attempts by him or by his masters to internationalize the war.

It is necessary to say a word to the peoples of the area. The future does not depend on the aggressors or the rancorous. You have nothing to fear from the flotillas and aircraft carriers or from the scenario of escalation which the Iraqi rulers are trying to stage in their very last moments in order to set the entire area on fire. God has promised safety to the believers and created for them the means for stability, namely,to work together to thwart the aggressors. God has left to the believers the option of jihad against oppressors and tyrants or complacency and idleness. How great is the difference between one who struggles to live in honor and dignity and between one who fails to do his duty and dies dishonorably!

In line with the new policy pursued by Washington in the region following the Marines setback in Beirut is the attempt to resuscitate the Ba'thist economy by pledging to build an oil pipeline from Iraq to Aqaba through Jordan, a project that will cost the U.S. treasury $ 1 billion. Clearly, the aim of such a project is to safeguard the flow of Iraqi oil to U.S. factories and to veer the Iraqi economy in a direction that serves imperialist interests. The Iraqi rulers were also informed that Washington pledges to provide all the conditions that will guarantee the flow of Iraqi oil to the pipelines of the imperialist and capitalist economy of the West. This is another manifestation of the fateful alliance between arrogant imperialist interests and the Baghdad regime, an alliance that is no longer a secret, for it has become known to everyone, even to the press which until recently was referring to the Ba'thists' hostility to imperialism. Now the press is reporting the extensive cooperation between the Ba'thist rulers and imperialist countries, a cooperation that has reached the level of a common alliance.

Commentary Contrasts Gulf Countries' Words, Deeds

GF201956 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] There is an enormous difference between words and deeds which call for ending the hostile war [words indistinct] against the Islamic Republic. While we find their words nearer to peace than to flaming the war and their words show concern for the life of nations and the security of the region, we find the contrary in their deeds, which have increased the tension, given new momentum to the war, and added other fuel to the flames.

I wonder if anyone will believe their words or their deeds, their attractive slogans or their intentions which are hidden behind those slogans? The examples which can be given in this regard are numerous, the most distinct example of this duplicity is that of some Persian Gulf countries. No doubt, peace and security are for the benefit of these countries and we admit that they have been harmed a lot from the war and will be harmed further if it is expanded to include other circles. In light of this feeling of danger, they are among the ranks of countries raising slogans of peace, of ending the war, and of ending the fighting and calling for the holding of conferences and meetings and for exerting maximum efforts to mobilize international capabilities to end the war.

But there are those who ask whether all of this is enough to guarantee security and stability and if the words, slogans, and expressions are sufficient to end that deep conflict which has numerous roots in [word indistinct] of faith and principle.

Our war with Saddam is an Islamic war against infidelity and a war which does not end without the collapse of one of the sides. Historically, the only side which is ready to fall is that of infidelity, because it does not have the factors to survive and is a deviation from God's way and the laws in Heaven and on earth.

Montazeri Criticizes 'Saudi Brand of Islam'

LD161445 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Writing teachers and Arabic and English language teachers of the publicity office of the Qom religious seminary, accompanied by a number of seminarists taught by that office, yesterday met Grand Ayatollah Montazeri. They reported on the educational activities of the office's various branches.

During the meeting, Grand Ayatollah Montazeri, while expressing appreciation for their work, said: The global position of our Islamic Revolution is extremely sensitive. Under circumstances when the propaganda disseminated by Christian missionaries and Marxist propagandists has reached a deadlock, colonialism has delegated the Saudi rulers to propagate a brand of Islam to its own liking. The Saudis are spending vast sums and introducing a number of baseless and superficial slogans in the name of Islam. This is happening at a time when if we were to scrutinize the situation more closely, it would become apparent that Christian missionaries, the propagandists of world Marxism, and the disseminators of U.S.-style Islam backed by the Saudi rulers all pursue a single aim — deceiving, exploiting, and enslaving of nations by the superpowers in the East and West.

He added: When colonialism sees that Marxist propaganda and the moral problems of Christianity no longer convince nations, and the nations are moving toward Islam, it disseminates the superficial and empty Islam of the Saudi rulers. Today, we see that the Saudi Government, with the cooperation of the colonialist powers, is introducing itself as a so-called standard-bearer of Islam. Hwerever it can, it has built a mosque wherein it has appointed a number of pseudoreligious mercenaries as Islamic missionaries.

It is in these circumstances that the responsibility of the Qom andother religious seminaries and all of us becomes extremely onerous. We should do our utmost to make use of the nations' veering toward Islam and their thirst to learn about Islam, particularly since the victory of the revolution.

For this reason, the publicity office should acquaint itself with the languages of the oppressed countries and make its publicity programs increasingly meaningful. In addition to teaching various world languages, it should also teach the philosophy of Islam and Eastern and Western philosophies, as the minds of our young people today have been contaminated with these philosophies and propaganda suggestions. If we introduce Islam fully and comprehensively to the world, we should to a certain extent acquaint ourselves with Western and Eastern philosophies in order to equip ourselves with their counterweapon, the lofty philosophy of Islam.

In connection with the Persian Gulf, countries who are setting up a colonialist conference under U.S. instigation and in order to be drawn into the war against the Islamic Republic of Iran are endorsing the idea that should a country attack one of the Arab countries that would be tantamount to an attack on all of them, Grand Ayatollah Montazeri graciously said.

If you people are really telling the truth and are endowed with Islamic and Arab zeal, then why is it that you do not stand up to Israel which has occupied Palestine, the Al-Aqsa Mosque, and, recently, Lebanon? Aren't Palestine and Lebanon two Arab countries subjected to foreign aggression and attack? They have been occupied for years by the enemies of Islam while you are ostensibly silent, but in reality are for that. This is at a time when if one were to speak about Saddam's war against the Islamic Republic of Iran, one ought to say that he himself began the aggression and so far we have done nothing but defend ourselves.

Movement of Iranian Patriots Statement on Nowruz

GF191827 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian 1500 GMT 19 Mar 84

[Statement issued by Movement of Iranian Patriots]

[Text] Compatriots: With the coming of Nowruz [New Year] and the new Iranian year, the decadent, executioner, and illegal regime has entered the scene with a new trick; it is urging the people of Iran to celebrate the New Year in cemeteries. The

regime intends to misuse the cries and sadness of mourning Iranians and, by creating a propaganda uproar, stage another show of support for the regime on the eve of the New Year. The regime which has already felt the silent objections and political boycott of the Iranian nation on the anniversary of the constitutional movement and on 10 and 11 February is trying to attach its decadent body to the ancient tradition of Nowruz to stop the unity of the patriotic Iranian people and their show of force. It is thus trying to stop the people of Iran from a show of force.

The Movement of Iranian Patriots reminds the compatriots that to foil the satanic plan of the mullahs they should welcome in the New Year on Tuesday at home by their Haft Sin [traditional Iranian New Year table of fruits and vegetables] tables and spend the rest of that day as well as Wednesday and Thursday visiting friends and relatives. On Friday, we should go to Behesht-e Zahra and other national cemeteries to review the bloody fruits of the regime of executioners, which are row upon row of the graves of the sacrificed ones, and pray for the dead and the deliverance of the Iranian people on the occasion of the New Year.

Reportage on Afghan Revolutionaries' Activities

Capture of Weapons

LD162313 Tehran IRNA in English 1647 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Text] Mashhad, March 16 IRNA — The Afghan Muslim revolutionaries captured 14 government troops and seized two machine guns, 12 Kalashnikovs, and a considerable amount of mines, grenades and cartridges in a night assault the past week in Kohneh city in Shindand Governorate of Herat Province. Two Muslim mujahideen were wounded in this attack.

Farah Province Battle

LD171824 Tehran IRNA in English 1643 GMT 17 Mar 84

[Text] Zahedan, March 17, IRNA — Following a three-day offensive carried out by the joint Soviet and Afghan Government troops, against 8 villages of Farah Province, on Feb. 24, over 70 joint forces troops were killed and large number of them injured in heavy battle with the Afghan mujahideen and the villages. Also several tanks and vehicles of the joint forces were destroyed in the said encounter.

Informed Afghan sources further said that in a retaliatory move by the joint Soviet and Afghan forces, the said villages were heavily pounded by artillery aircraft and helicopter gunships martyring a number of innocent people of the villages.

Attack on Food Convoy

GF211926 Tabriz Domestic Service in Armenian 1730 GMT 21 Mar 84

[Text] During clashes with the aggressive forces of the Soviet Union yesterday, the Afghan revolutionaries destroyed their tanks and killed 6 of them. The Afghan revolutionaries also destroyed 85 Soviet food transportation vehicles which were heading for Kabul on 8 and 14 March. The Afghan revolutionaries declared that the availability of food, particularly flour and sugar, has decreased considerably in Kabul and Kandahar.